



Champions for Children's Health

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January 18, 2013

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
House Committee on Energy & Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy & Commerce
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Waxman:

The nation's children's hospitals write to express their strong support for H.R. 297, legislation introduced by Reps. Pitts and Pallone to reauthorize the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program and urge the Energy and Commerce Committee to approve the legislation.

The future of pediatric health care cannot be compromised. CHGME helps ensure that children throughout the nation can depend on the high-quality care they need and deserve. The CHGME program provides freestanding teaching hospitals with federal graduate medical education (GME) support similar to the funding that other teaching hospitals receive through Medicare. The program, since its founding in 1999, has been reauthorized twice with broad bipartisan support.

The program has a proven track record of success and represents a high-value investment in children's health care. The CHGME program has increased the number of pediatric providers and has eased the critical shortage in pediatric specialty area. The CHGME hospitals, less than one percent of all hospitals, train 49% of all pediatricians and 51% of all pediatric specialists.

Thanks to CHGME, children's hospitals have enriched their training experience by providing greater community-based opportunities in underserved urban and rural areas. This has increased children's access to care and the likelihood that residents will practice in medically underserved areas. The program provides essential support for the future primary care workforce and for pediatric specialty care, which is the greatest workforce shortage in children's health care.

We applaud the support of children's health care and urge the Committee to pass the legislation. We thank you for your unwavering leadership and support of children's health issues and look forward to working closely with you to pass CHGME reauthorization this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jim Kaufman', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jim Kaufman
Vice President, Public Policy
Children's Hospital Association

cc: Rep. Joseph Pitts
Rep. Frank Pallone
Rep. Michael Burgess
Rep. Lois Capps